

August 11, 2009

Chairperson Ron Gajewski called the Regular Solway Town Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Solway Town Hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Supervisors Scott Welsh and Clare R. Stromlund, Clerk Regena Merritt, Treasurer Cindy Moe, and four concerned citizens.

MOTION made by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2009 Town Board Meeting.

MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried to accept the following Treasurer's report dated July 31, 2009.

**Checking 11950 - 12009**

Beginning Balance	\$160,798.88	
Receipts	\$59,305.50	
Transfers	0.00	
Disbursements	\$44,257.82	
Ending Balance	\$175,846.56	\$175,846.56

**Savings**

Beginning Balance	\$0.00	
Interest	0.00	
Deposits	0.00	
Withdrawals	0.00	
Ending Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00

**Money Market**

Beginning Balance	\$ 113,331.76	
Interest/Deposits	\$38.51	
Withdrawals	\$0.00	
Ending Balance	\$113,370.27	\$113,370.27

**Total Accounts**

**\$289,216.83**

**INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:**

**7/14/09 MN Revenue** - Notice of unallotment of credits from the state. The township will receive \$4,754.00 less than anticipated. The township does have money in reserves and will not need to raise the levy.

**7/29/09 Quill Office Supplies** - Table order confirmation. No board action

**8/3/09 U. S. Dept of Commerce** - Census information. No board action.

**8/7/09 Country Trucking & Excavating** - 2nd qrt of 2009 reporting form and payment. No board action.

**8/11/09 U of M Transportation Center** - Local Technical Assistance Program newsletter. No board action.

**OUTSTANDING BILLS:** The Treasurer has additional bills for reimbursement to Leon Forstrom in the amount of \$88.19; Clare Stromlund in the amount of \$17.60; and John Childers in the amount of \$26.94. MOTION by Welsh seconded by Stromlund and carried to pay all outstanding bills.

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**CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS:** a) Sue Tobolaski is at the meeting tonight to request use of the hall for an overnight dance for teens. This event will be arranged by Psychedelic Panda Productions. Members of the production company are friends of Ms Tobolaski. The group's goal is to provide a safe environment for youth. Parents are welcome to this event and the group has their own security. There is no alcohol allowed. The board feels no overnight events should be allowed and the group should have to vacate the building by the 1:00 am deadline just as a wedding or other party would be required to do. The production company donates 10% to 20% to "Lifehouse" in Duluth and other teen organizations. The board is unsure whether a business can rent the hall under a township residents name and hold an event where the group would charge admission to make a profit. Other groups that use the hall are non-profit organizations or community groups such as 4-H and Boy/Girl Scouts. The Clerk will check with the attorney's at the MN Association of Townships for legal advice and get back to Ms Tobolaski.

**ROAD:** a) A new "Sandberg Road" sign on Highway #2 was ordered from St. Louis County Public Works and installed by township personnel.

b) John Childers will re-cut township roads at intersections and roadsides as needed to keep weeds down.

c) The hedge at the Munger School Site is in need of trimming and will be completed by Kerbie Merritt as time permits.

**FIRE:** a) There are no fire department members present to report.

**RECYCLING:** a) Mr. Jim Miller reported that several residents have asked about a non-acceptable items day for residents to bring in appliances, televisions, etc. The Clerk has a proposal from Hartel's for a collection day on October 17, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The cost to the township would be \$500 for trucking and labor and a small charge to the residents for each item brought in. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried to hold an unacceptable items collection day on Saturday October 17, 2009 from 8 am to noon.

**HALL:** a) The new appliances and carpeting have been installed in the downstairs. Pete Hildre will be working on the finishing work.

b) Deputy Clerk Cookie Saline asked Clerk Merritt to ask the board if there should be an extra charge to parties that rent the whole building, now that the upstairs and downstairs can be rented out separately. The board feels for a wedding, residents should get the whole building without any extra charge as we have done in the past. The board also feels that smaller parties (50 and under) should be directed to use the downstairs.

c) & d) The Clerk reported that some work needs to be done on the office computer to allow the Deputy Clerk and Treasurer to access certain files and to print. Newer versions of Microsoft Publisher are needed so Deputy Clerk Saline can work on the newsletter in the office or on her laptop and print it out at the hall. The Clerk would also like to have a dedicated phone line into the office as there are times when a group at the hall is using the phone and the Clerk has to wait or when the Clerk is on the phone and others in the building are picking up the phone and interrupting.

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MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried to spend up to \$500.00 to network the office computer with the Deputy Clerk and Treasurer's computers. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to have the Clerk get a dedicated phone line for the township office.

**e)** The board has an estimate from Cloquet Interiors in the amount of \$733.00 to carpet the front porch and steps. These steps and porch get quite slippery when they become wet. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried to accept the estimate from Cloquet Interiors to carpet the front porch and steps in the amount of \$733.00. There is a question on whether the carpet will hold moisture and cause the wood porch to rot. Chairperson Gajewski will check with Cloquet Interiors to find out if this will be a problem. Chairperson Gajewski also mentioned that he was told by Cloquet Interiors that there is no problem shoveling snow off of the outdoor carpet.

**f)** The board would like to purchase 100 chairs for use downstairs. They would like the same chairs as upstairs. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried to have Treasurer Moe order 100 chairs like the ones upstairs for use downstairs.

**PARK:** **a)** The Board would like to investigate getting a front-end loader for the John Deere tractor. A loader would be helpful at the cemetery and for use in the park. Duluth Lawn and Sport has one for \$2,600 from John Deere. A ballast box for \$200 that will be needed when the front end loader is used. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to get additional information and installation prices for a front-end loader for the John Deere tractor for the next town board meeting.

**b)** The hedge at the Munger School Site needs to be trimmed. The board would like Kerbie Merritt will do this as soon as possible.

**c)** The Board would like John Childers to try to get extra blades for the mowing tractor to have on hand. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to have John Childers try to purchase extra blades for the roadside-mowing tractor.

**CEMETERY:** **a)** Chairperson Gajewski completed a cemetery inspection along with the monthly playground inspection. No safety hazards were found.

**b)** Chairperson Gajewski mentioned that some of the gravesites need to either have sod or be seeded. The board decided to get some black dirt and use grass seed. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to have the Clerk order some black dirt to be delivered to the cemetery before the end of October to use for seeding gravesites.

**COMMITTEES:** **a)** Special Events Fun Day is scheduled for September 26, 2009. The Adolph Store will provide the food. A Special Events Committee meeting will be held September 16, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. for final planning of the Fall Fest and the initial planning of the Halloween Carnival. The Clerk will send notices to all committee members.

**OLD BUSINESS:** **a)** Chairperson Ron Gajewski and Supervisor Clare Stromlund are both certified for conducting the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meetings until 2013.

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**NEW BUSINESS:** a) Supervisors Welsh, Stromlund and Gajewski received complaints about the blacktop smell from the Northland Bituminous gravel pit on Highway #194. These complaints were referred to Mark Lindhorst in the Virginia office for St. Louis County Planning and Zoning. Northland Bituminous does have a permit for a portable hot mix plant. The hot mix plant is gone now, but will be back in operation in September. They do have a Conditional Use Permit applied for and passed for a pit extension that has not yet been issued to them by Mr. Lindhorst until certain other conditions are met.

b) The Minnesota Association of Townships Annual Meeting and Conference will be in Rochester Minnesota on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried to allow town board members to attend the MAT Annual Meeting and Conference at township expense.

c) The Clerk reported that Chairperson Gajewski will be in Washington D.C. on the regularly scheduled September Town Board meeting. Clare Stromlund will be on vacation during this time also. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to hold the September Town Board Meeting on Tuesday September 1, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. The Clerk will post this meeting.

d) Supervisor Welsh mentioned that he feels that Chairperson Gajewski should be reimbursed for airfare to and from Minneapolis for his trip to the Township National Conference in Washington D. C. Chairperson Gajewski won the trip to Washington D. C. for being named the Minnesota Township Officer of the Year. The trip includes airfare from Minneapolis to Washington. The Clerk from Cotton Township also won a trip and Cotton Township is paying for her airfare to and from Minneapolis. If he were to drive, Chairperson Gajewski would receive mileage reimbursement for driving to Minneapolis since he is on township business. Supervisor Welsh also feels that because Chairperson Gajewski is representing the township by attending seminars working for township concerns he should be paid his regular wages to attend this conference. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried to pay Chairperson Gajewski his airfare to Minneapolis and wages to attend the National Association of Townships annual meeting and conference in Washington D.C. Chairperson Gajewski abstained from this vote.

e) The township received a monetary donation from the AA group that meets at the town hall.

f) The Unallotment of the Market Value Tax Credit was addressed under Correspondence.

g) The Aggregate Tax Collection is up to date.

h) Supervisor Welsh mentioned that while attending a wedding at the town hall he noticed that the back of the stage was decorated by hanging lights and fabric from the ceiling in front of the flag. Supervisor Welsh is wondering if there should be some sort of curtain to pull across the back of the stage so if others renting the hall want to do this they can easily do so without damage to the ceiling tiles as they might not be as careful as those who decorated for the wedding he attended. Supervisor Stromlund feels very strongly that no one should cover the flag at anytime. Residents attending the meeting felt we should not make it easy for the flag to be covered and that this is not something we should spend money on.

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When the town hall was painted tape had to be removed from the frame around the flag so apparently renters have covered the flag in the past. The board agreed not to install anything at the back of the stage that would cover the flag, and to add to the hall rental instructions not to tape on any woodwork including the windowsills or the wood frame around the flag.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting after the board completes signing checks. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.